

Fruit culture will also taken up there. Horticulture has two branches—fruit culture and vegetable culture. We will engage scientists and technical hands of various fields. We will do soil testing. In case of diseases, scientists from vicinity will come to their help. We want these centres to undertake all these functions.

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is predominantly an agricultural country. Whether there is any provision or guidelines in your policy for giving priority to predominantly agricultural districts.

My second question is what do you think about the proposals approved already included in Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans and also about those few which have not been approved and what action you are going to take on these proposals.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : These are the provisions for rural districts and all the rural districts are more or less agricultural districts. Apart from this separate provisions will be made for drought affected areas. All these districts are agricultural districts. But as I have told we have earmarked different subjects for different areas, at some place Horticulture has been introduced, at some other places training in fisheries is being given. We will decide about it after keeping various factor in consideration.

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Nothing is being done in predominantly agricultural countries. More work is being done in the areas where industries are located.

[English]

SHRI B.R. PATIL : I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Agriculture to the fact that there was a proposal to start Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Bijapur. Bijapur has got a well-equipped Agricultural Research Station which was founded in the year 1901. The Minister has replied that Krishi Vigyan Kendras will be started the moment funds are available. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether he is going to consider starting a KVK at Bijapur.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I have already mentioned that all the districts are under my consideration. Of course, that also would be considered. I have already said that I am committed that every district should have it.

SHRI B.R. PATIL : I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister about Bijapur.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : When I say 'all the districts', it does not mean one district less. When I say 'all', it means Bijapur is a part of it. I have already said that ARS has to be upgraded and I am definitely inclined for that.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous Government had announced that one Krishi Vigyan Kendra would be set up in each district and that was indeed done.

But two Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been approved for my constituency Amravati. Even for these areas Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been approved which do not have agriculture land. I would like to ask the Government as to what norms have been followed in opening Krishi Vigyan Kendra and why two Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been approved for one district.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That was done by my predecessor, Agriculture Minister. How I can order their closure. We want to set up one Krishi Vigyan Kendra for each district but how can we close one already set up.

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time you have given me a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : First time ! Well !

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL : It is my first chance in the session for which I am thankful to you. I would like to ask the Minister as to how many Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been approved so far for Maharashtra and whether that yielded anything I am saying so because at times we have seen that several schemes appear ideal and good on papers but when implemented they attract very adverse reaction of people. Have you taken any measure in view of this fact?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have reviewed the working of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and we found that performance of several Kendras is very good whereas some of them are not functioning satisfactorily.

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL : That is why I am asking you whether you have set up any committee or taken any steps in this regard.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have constituted a Social Audit Committee to ensure better performance of these Centres which comprises one MP, one MLA, one agriculture scientist, one agriculture economist and APC of the concerned State. This Committee will review the working of all Vigyan Kendras and submit a report. Hon. Members have introduced this system. I shall feel obliged if they do this work expeditiously.

[English]

Export of Sugar

*147. ⁺SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had lately decided to export sugar in order to clear arrears of the cane growers;

(b) if so, the total production of sugar this season so far and the amount of sugar to be exported;

(c) the national stock position of sugar as it existed on the eve of the said decision; and

(d) the quantum of sugar since exported with the cost and rate thereof, Country-wise ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government has been permitting export of sugar to enable the factories to liquidate surplus free-sale stocks and clear cane arrears.

(b) and (c) In the current sugar season upto 31.1.1997, total production of sugar was of the order of 55.17 lakh tonnes. Of this, 4.50 lakh tonnes of free-sale sugar has been allowed for general exports in instalments beginning early December, 1996. At that time, as on 7.12.1996 the national stock after meeting the dispatches of both levy and free-sale sugar till then was about 65 lakh tonnes.

(d) Position of export against the allotment of 4.50 lakh tonnes is as follows :

S.No	1996-97 date	Allotment (Lakh tonnes)	Party	*Export (Lakh tonnes)	Countries
1.	12.12.96	1.00	ISGIEIC	0.77	Pakistan, Indonesia & Russia
2.	3.1.97	1.00	STC	0.04	Pakistan
3.	4.2.97	2.50	DGFT/APEDA	**	—
Total		4.50		0.81	

* Exports figures are provisional.

** APEDA has issued a trade notice on 17.2.1997. Based on the response export under the decanalised system will follow.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, both the sugar industry and the farmers are in a major crisis. A very large accumulated stock of sugar is there and the dues to the farmers in UP alone are about Rs. 900 crore.

In view of this, the Government, as stated in the statement, has allowed the export of 4.5 lakh tonnes of sugar. But the delay in announcing the export limits has led to a very poor response. Only 0.81 lakh tonnes has been exported and international prices have since softened because of the entry of Brazilian sugar.

In view of this, does the Government have any contingency plan to ease this crisis and ensure that quick relief is provided to the farmers who have not been paid very large arrears ?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Member has asked the question in the context of

Uttar Pradesh. So far as the position of Uttar Pradesh is concerned with regard to payment, I think...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have not asked in the context of Uttar Pradesh, I have rather asked about the entire nation. I have referred to Uttar Pradesh just to give an example.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh only one per cent cane arrear is outstanding, 99 per cent cane arrear has been cleared there. I do not want to devote much time on this issue. Hon. Member has expressed concern over export. He wants to know as to how exports can be expedited so that cane growers are paid the outstanding cane arrears. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are perhaps aware that the Government had introduced a bill in this House to repeal Sugar Export Promotion Act 1958 in the last week of December during the last session which was passed by the Lok Sabha and referred to Rajya Sabha where a discussion was sought on that Bill. At that time we had a sugar stock of 80 Lakh tons. We had 86.48 lakh ton sugar in our stock as on 31 January 1997. We have issued an ordinance to ensure quick and timely export of sugar so as to make timely payment to the farmers. The Government took a prompt decision in this regard that presently they cannot withhold the stock, therefore an ordinance should be issued immediately in this regard and accordingly we issued an ordinance on 15 January. It took some time to enforce the procedures laid down in the ordinance. Recently we have issued a notification to D.G., Foreign Trade for export of 2.50 Lakh Ton sugar and directed the exporter to get themselves registered with APEDA. After registration only they will be allowed to export this sugar. Now there is no hurdle in it. Ways have been cleared for export by means of this ordinance.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The entire sugar cycle is subjected to very sharp peaks and drop. It follows a set pattern. The MSP is fixed, then the SAP is fixed, then the mills say every year that they cannot pay. The crop pattern gets changed. It gets diverted to crops like menthol in UP. A lot of diversion is going to menthol production for export to Japan. There is a shortage of sugar in the following year. Prices go up, mills make profit. The farmer is attracted back again, and again there is a surplus. So, there is a set pattern.

Does the Government propose to take up this matter with the States to try and even out this graph by linking it—just like it links the Minimum Statutory Price—to the cost of production and to the recovery rate ? Similarly, if there could be some way by linking the SAP also to a formula, the arbitrariness is cut out.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to take it up with the States or not ? Just reply in one sentence.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as for the points raised by Hon. Member in the context of support price, I would like to tell him that recently Hon. Allahabad High Court has given a verdict that no state can fix advisory price and the Central Government will only fix price. The Central Government has constituted a Committee for this purpose. Advisory prices vary from State to State. We fix a single statutory minimum price. This time we have increased the statutory minimum price. During the last year it was Rs. 42.50 whereas this year it has been raised to Rs. 45.90.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Environmental Projects

*141. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Broad Objectives	Extent of funding	Status	Achievements during the last three years	
					Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Ganga Action Plan phase-I	Abatement of river water pollution	100%	ongoing	130.00	Out of 45 schemes 41 schemes completed.
2.	Ganga Action Plan phase-II	Abatement of river water pollution	50%	ongoing	158.03	DPRs for 17 projects have been approved.
3.	National River Action Plan	Abatement of river water pollution	50%	ongoing	132.23	DPRs of 9 schemes have been approved.
4.	Preparation of detailed project feasibility reports	Abatement of pollution of lakes/ivers	50%	Pilot study	10.00	Study taken up for 3 lakes viz. Motijheel, Muzaffarpur Man, Barela Chaur & 3 rivers viz. Gandak, Bagmati, Burhi Gandak.
5.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	Create environmental awareness through active participation of public	100%	ongoing	0.34	3 Paryavaran vahinis constituted in Hazaribagh, Rohtas, & Ranchi districts.
6.	Conservation of the Kabar Lake	To implement the management action plan of Kabar Lake	100%	ongoing	31.36	NA
7.	Assistance for abatement of pollution	To strengthen the State Pollution Control Board	100%	ongoing	15.20	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases.

DPRs : Detailed Project Reports, PFRs : Project Feasibility Reports, NA : Not Available.

(a) the details of centrally assisted environmental projects started during the last three years in Bihar;

(b) the details of the achievements made and the amount of assistance provided under each of these projects; and

(c) the details of the projects likely to be started in the near future in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Details of centrally assisted environmental projects started during the last three years in Bihar alongwith achievements made, both financial and physical, are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) All the ongoing projects are likely to be continued in the near future in the State.